



King County

VETERANS AND HUMAN SERVICES LEVY 2008 STRATEGY AREA ANNUAL REPORTS

Activity 2.4(b) Investment in Support Services for Housing

OBJECTIVE

The Levy's investment in Strategy 2 focuses on ending long-term homelessness through a variety of interventions including identification, outreach, prevention, housing, supportive services and education. Activity 2.4(b) is designed to provide funds for supportive services to formerly homeless households moving into or residing in permanent housing. This activity is similar to Activity 2.4(a) Housing Health Outreach Team that provides health-related supportive services assisting those transitioning out of homelessness.

POPULATION FOCUS

The populations to be served are:

- Veterans and their families in need who are struggling with or at risk for mental illness, health problems, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, unstable housing or homelessness, and under-employment
- Individuals and families who have experienced long-term homelessness and are frequent users of emergency services, jails, and other institutions
- Individuals who have been recently released from prison or jail who are striving to maintain their family or re-unite with their family
- Families and children at risk of homelessness and involvement with justice, child welfare and other systems.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

For this strategy area, \$3.25 million in operating costs and supportive services for permanent housing have been allocated through competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) processes. Funds have been awarded to non-profit organizations that have identified units of affordable permanent housing and have a solid service plan for the participants, including on-site services that meet the tenants' individual needs. Funds have been distributed countywide, in Seattle, South King County, and East King County. Special consideration has been given to assure that these resources are used to create a variety of housing choices and supportive service opportunities for participants.

The RFP processes have prioritized funding for permanent housing and services for homeless households. This includes:

- Chronically homeless veteran households and other chronically homeless households with intensive service needs
- Homeless households (veterans and others, including youth and young adults) that need supportive services linked to permanent housing.

Supportive services may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Case management and advocacy
- Engagement and outreach
- Housing support and life skills training
- Employment counseling

- Job search assistance
- Education and training
- Money management and credit repair
- Domestic violence and sexual assault support
- Mental health and substance abuse counseling (not covered by other resources)
- Legal assistance
- Children's services
- Interpreter services.

Operating funds cover the costs to operate housing that is affordable to households with very low incomes, or costs for individual rental subsidies for project participants. Selected agencies must either have direct experience working with the target populations or have partnership agreements in place with a specialized provider to assure that services are sufficient and appropriate.

For those funds targeted to veterans, and in order to meet the goal for serving veterans, King County has given the highest priority to projects that already have a partnership with a veteran-serving agency able to identify the service and housing needs of their clients, and actually refer appropriate veterans into the housing. Priority has also been given to projects with concrete plans to develop working relationships with existing veterans programs or systems.

PROGRESS DURING 2008

Two RFP processes have been completed with Levy funds and five agencies have been selected (three in the first round in 2007, and two in this most recent 2008 round). All currently available dollars for this levy activity have now been committed to agencies through contracts or letters of award. These contracts will extend through 2012, 2013, or 2014.

#	Agency	Veterans Funds Awarded	Human Services Funds	Total Levy Funds Awarded	Contract Period
1	Evergreen Treatment Services	\$181,485	\$725,945	\$907,430	7/08-6/13
2	Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation	\$33,410	\$100,235	\$133,645	1/08-12/12
3	Downtown Emergency Service Center	\$460,105	\$748,820	\$1,208,925	1/09-12/13
4	Low Income Housing Institute	\$105,000	\$145,000	\$250,000	7/09-6/14
5	Sound Mental Health	\$196,415	\$271,245	\$467,660	7/09-6/14
6	Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council	\$0	\$282,340	\$282,340	4/09-3/14
	Total	\$975,000	\$2,275,000	\$3,250,000	

Evergreen Treatment Services (ETS). ETS works with some of the hardest to serve clients. Clients come primarily from Harborview, the Sobering Center, King County Jail Health Program, King County Veterans Program, and the streets. ETS served 24 clients and moved 3 individuals into housing in 2008, and provided an array of services to many others in need. Services include treatment referral, addiction counseling, detox assistance, assistance with applications for benefits, and assistance with employment. The program assists clients in maintaining non-time-limited housing by providing rental assistance and intensive case management services. This program is funded in conjunction with other partners in order to provide 20 new units of housing.

Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation (VCC). VCCC serves homeless families and veterans moving from shelter or transitional housing into permanent housing. In 2008, VCCC served 36 clients and moved 10 people into permanent housing and is working to help those clients maintain their housing

through extensive case management. Clients are making progress on a variety of fronts, including therapy, education, and employment. Clients are attending counseling sessions, settling into their new homes, visiting with family members, working, taking classes, and moving toward housing stability.

Downtown Emergency Service Center. These services are tied to the new Rainier Housing building, which has 50 housing units for chronically homeless individuals in Seattle (5270 Rainier Ave S, Seattle). This housing will provide intensive services, case management, and engagement to clients in their own homes, starting in 2009. The grand opening for this project took place Feb. 23, 2009.

Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI). These services are tied to the new McDermott Place building developed by LIHI (Lake City Way NE, Seattle), which is expected to open for services in November 2009. The building has 75 units, half dedicated to veterans. Levy dollars are contributing to a pool of funds that will pay for the operations and services for the entire building. Funds will go to LIHI for operations and to Sound Mental Health to provide case management services. The specific budget details have not yet been finalized.

Sound Mental Health. Services are discussed above, as they are attached to LIHI's McDermott Place.

Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council. This service contract builds on the existing efforts of this agency in East King County. It will maintain 15 units of affordable housing to serve eligible homeless men who are exiting the Congregations for the Homeless shelter, some of whom will be veterans (though this activity is not receiving any Veterans Levy funds). The agency will help clients find and secure housing, build an individualized case management plan, provide ongoing case management, and provide rental assistance to clients.

King County plans to release the next RFP for these services during Fall 2009, with a total of \$1 million in additional funding:

Anticipated Date	Veterans Funds	Human Services Funds	Total Levy Funding Available
Fall 2009	\$300,000	\$700,000	\$1,000,000

SERVICES PROVIDED

Number Served. The two providers that began offering services in 2008 have served a total of 60 people. To date, those served have been located in Seattle and South King County.

	Total Served	East	North	Seattle	South
Evergreen Treatment Services	24	0	0	19	0
Valley Cities Counseling & Consultation	36	0	0	24	33

Note: Sub-region unknown for 5 clients.

Living Situation. All of those served were homeless when they were first identified for services.

Living Situation	
Homeless	60
Not Homeless	0
Unknown	138

Gender. Nearly two-thirds of those served were men.

Gender	
Male	36
Female	24

Age Group. Those served include families with children, as seen in the chart below.

Age Group	
0 to 5	5
6 to 10	1
11 to 13	4
14 to 17	3
18 to 34	7
35 to 59	38
60 to 74	2
75 to 84	
85 and over	

Race. Half of those served were white; the remainder had a variety of ethnicities:

Race		
American Indian or Alaska Native	3	5%
Asian, Asian-American		
Black, African-America, Other	14	23.3%
Hawaiian Native or Pacific Islander		
Hispanic, Latino	4	6.7%
Multi-Racial	7	11.7%
White or Caucasian	30	50.0%
Other/Unknown	2	3.3%

Veteran Status. Approximately 20% were veterans or spouses or dependents of veterans.

Veterans/Military Status		
Veterans or Active Service persons	10	16.7%
Spouses of veterans or active military persons	1	1.7%
Military or Veterans' Children or Dependents	1	1.7%
Non Military or Veteran eligible clients	46	76.7%

Outcomes. Evergreen Treatment Services served 24 clients in 2008, providing 477 hours of case management and helped 3 of the clients move into housing. Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation served 36 clients in 2008, providing 974 hours of case management and helping 10 move into housing.

SUCCESS STORY

Anne is a female veteran who suffers from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and is also working on some chemical dependency issues. She needed permanent housing to help stabilize her situation and work towards recovery. When staff at Valley Cities first met with Anne, her two children were living out of state and allegedly being abused by a family member. In August 2008, she went to retrieve her children out of state, in hopes of bringing them back to a safer home. While Anne was away, Valley Cities was able to apply for and obtain an apartment for her family to return to; they have been living there now for about nine months. Anne has secured full-time employment, has accessed and is using Valley Cities mental health services for her family, and both children are regularly attending school.

With a new home, stable employment, and services for her and her children, Anne is able to focus on her personal career and family goals, and is feeling much more confident about the future.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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